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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 007688

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/24/2013
TAGS: PREL BA CE CH FI RS SW SZ JO

SUBJECT: POST SECURES IRAQI PASSPORTS FROM IRAQI MISSION;
GUIDANCE NEEDED ON PROCESSING PROCEDURES

Classified By: DCM David M. Hale for reasons 1.5 (b) (d)

¶11. (U) Action request for Department. See paragraph 5.

SUMMARY

¶12. (C) On November 23, PolOff picked up from the Iraqi mission in Amman more than 3,500 blank Iraqi ordinary, service and diplomatic passports along with passport stickers. Post seeks Department guidance on processing of such passports/stickers. End Summary.

¶13. (C) The Iraqi mission in Amman advised PolOff that they were in possession of 3,649 Iraqi passports and 808 passport stickers forwarded to them from Iraqi missions in Beijing, Bern, Colombo, Helsinki, Manama, Moscow, and Stockholm. PolOff visited the Iraqi mission on November 23 and took possession of the Iraqi passports and stickers and placed the boxes in a secure location at the embassy. Following is a breakdown of the type of passports received from the Iraqi mission in Amman:

Ordinary 3490

Service 7

Diplomatic 152

¶14. (C) Over the past several months, the military Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Center (HACC) based in the Embassy has, acting on e-mail instructions from the senior advisor to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry in Baghdad and in cooperation with the remnants of the Iraqi Embassy in Amman, been collecting blank Iraqi passports and passport machines. The Iraqi MFA instructed its embassies around the world to forward blank passports to the Iraqi Embassy in Amman. The Iraqi MFA senior advisor has generally instructed the HACC to collect the passports, machines, foils, and other related items from the Iraqi Embassy, destroy ordinary passports (keeping a careful log), and forward to the MFA in Baghdad service and diplomatic passports. The HACC officer who was responsible for this function has departed, and this function has fallen onto the Embassy to perform.

COMMENT

¶15. (C) We expect further requests for assistance from the Iraqi mission in Amman as they receive Iraqi passports from Iraqi missions abroad. Post requests Department and CPA guidance on handling and disposition of such passports.

¶16. (U) CPA Baghdad minimize considered.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/amman/>

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GNEHM